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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

1 April 1968

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EE Reaction to President Johnson's Speech

Eastern European reaction to President Johnson's new peace probe on Vietnam and his decision not to run for re-election has been sparse thus far. Aside from Polish, Rumanian, and Bulgarian news media, which have yet to be heard, other EE governments predictably favor the de-escalation in Vietnam. However, the East German and Yugoslav media question the motives behind the combined deescalation and decision not to run for re-election.

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EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWN-
GRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION

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Polish-Danish European Security Talks Scheduled

The Danes have informed the NATO Council that they will begin expert-level talks with the Poles in May on various aspects of European security and disarmament. The talks will stem from a Polish suggestion of a year ago. Agreement was finally reached on 14 February, and the talks will begin in Warsaw on 13 May. The agenda, as suggested by the Poles, includes nuclear free zones, mutual renunciation of force, and a possible European security conference. [REDACTED]

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COMMENT: The Poles are having some success in engaging the interest of smaller NATO countries in their various European security schemes. For example, they have been holding similar talks intermittently with the Belgians in recent months.

GDR to Publish Conversations with US POW's

The East Germans have published a book of conversations with American pilots held by the North Vietnamese. Titled "Pilots in Pyjamas," the work was compiled by GDR journalists Heynowski and Scheumann who have made several trips to North Vietnam to collect material on the "atrocities" of the American bombers and the contrasting "humane" treatment accorded US POWs.

The February "exchange list for the German book trade" purportedly listed "Pilots in Pyjamas" as a 400-page account of ten talks lasting several hours between the correspondents and the prisoners. The book was to be released to the public late last month. [REDACTED]

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Yugoslav-Hungarian Party Talks

Hungarian party secretary and politburo member Zoltan Komocsin was in Belgrade 28 March to exchange views on the "international workers' movement" and the international situation, as well as bilateral cooperation. His host was Nijaz Dizdarevic, Yugoslav party executive committee member in charge of relations with foreign communist parties. [REDACTED]

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COMMENT: The visit undoubtedly dealt with the possibility of Yugoslavia's attendance at the 24 April meeting in Budapest to prepare for the world communist conference to [REDACTED]

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be held later this year. Komocsin arrived in Belgrade 3 days after publicly stressing that Yugoslavia will be invited to the Budapest meeting and before holding high-level Hungarian-Rumanian talks. So far, the Tito regime has given no indication that it will abandon its opposition to attending meetings such as that planned for Budapest.

International Trade Union Meeting Opens in Sofia

Convened on 29 March to demonstrate solidarity with the Arab peoples, the consultative meeting includes representatives from throughout the Arab world as well as from all European Communist countries except Czechoslovakia. The Yugoslavs are represented by an "observer." The opening session was highlighted by WFTU Secretary Zakariya's call for the creation of a "standing working group" to be composed of representatives of the WFTU and the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions. [REDACTED]

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COMMENT: The meeting could be the occasion for further evidence of disunity within the Communist world. Rumania has long opposed Soviet domination of the WFTU and is alone among its Communist allies in failing to condemn "Israeli aggression." In addition, a Syrian delegate reportedly accused Rumania of being a "tool of International Zionism" at the Budapest consultative meeting of Communist parties last February.

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[REDACTED]

NOTE: THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ABOVE REPRESENT
ONLY THE ANALYSIS OF THE EE DIVISION

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CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS FOR APRIL

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1 Czechoslovakia : Central Committee Plenum resumes

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2-5 Bulgaria : Foreign Minister Bashev to Sweden

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4 Hungary : National Day; culmination of Revolutionary Youth Days

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7-11 Bulgaria : Foreign Minister Bashev to Iceland

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8-11 Rumania : Premier Maurer and Foreign Minister Manescu to Sweden

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9 East Germany : Paul Robeson Day

22-28 Poland : Foreign Minister Rapacki to Algeria

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24 Hungary : Preparatory commission for International Communist Conference begins work in Budapest

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